there will be still more Ezhavas who will be able to stand the test of efficiency. I should be very very sorry to see the Ezhava community coming into service on the ground of backwardness or on the sole test of minimum qualification.

In regard to nomination and election to the Legislative Council, you plead for a separate electorate. I can only draw your attention to what I have already said, that until the life of the present Council is over, I could not think of making a further experiment on the subject of the electorate and electoral systems.

174. Needs of the Parayas.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) prayed for the following concessions being granted to the Parayas in the matter of education :—

(1) The Paraya pupils studying in the English and Vernacular schools should be given noonday meals.

(2) There were only very few youths of the Paraya community who had passed the School Leaving Examination. But there were many who were literate. They should be provided with suitable appointments in the several departments under the Government.

(3) M. I. Tevi of the 6th class, Vernacular Middle School, Sastankotta and K. K. Gopalan of the 5th class, Vernacular Middle School, Kavur, in the Tevalakara *pakuthi*, should each be given a scholarship for a fixed period.

(4) The Paraya candidates appearing for the Vernacular School Leaving Examination should be exempted from payment of examination fees.

(5) Paraya candidates should be declared to have passed the examinations, even when they got a few marks below the prescribed minimum for each subject.

The member next said that the Parayas were a labouring class but that they were prevented from cutting *eetas* and rattan from the reserved forests for pursuing some cottage industry or other. There was also no work available for them since the outbreak of the late European war; and consequently, the Parayas had become poorer. The Government should therefore adopt some measures to alleviate their distress.

There was no law of succession and inheritance among the Parayas, and consequently, they were put to great inconvenience and difficulty. Some were following the *Makkattayi* law, others the *Marumakkattayi* law, while still some others were following the *Misradayi* law. In the absence of a uniform law of succession, there was no inducement for them to earn property. It was therefore necessary to apply some uniform law in the matter. The member thought it would be enough if the provisions of the Nayar Regulation were extended to the Parayas, the majority of whom were agreeable to such a course.

Lastly, the member prayed that Mr. Yohannan, the holder of School Leaving Certificate No. 2470 of 1100, should be given some appointment in the public service.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Kandan Kumaran, as you know, the Parayas are already included among the depressed classes who are allowed full remission of fees both in English and Vernacular Schools.

They are also exempted from paying examination fees; and the question of a few special scholarships for them is now under correspondence with the Director of Public Instruction.

I am afraid it will not be possible to extend the Nayar Regulation to your community for purposes of succession and transmission of property. If you will form a small committee among yourselves and draw up a memorandum of your needs in that direction, I shall be very happy to have your proposals examined.

The other points you have taken up will be duly considered.

175. Concessions to the Parayas.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Member, Nominated*) made the following requests in the matter of registry of lands :—

(1) The Parayas had submitted applications for the concessional registry of lands in the several taluks at the rate of 3 acres for each family. But most of the applications had not yet been disposed of. They should be decided without further delay.

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(2) Lands applied for by the Parayas should be registered in their names alone and not assigned to others or sold in auction.

(3) The need for disafforesting and registering an extent of 600 acres of land comprised in the Kuvakkavu, Kalappakkod and Valavukodi and other blocks of land situated on the sides of the road leading from Manimala to Perumpuzha *kadavu* had been urged upon the Government at successive sessions of the Assembly from the twelfth and the Government had stated that the lands would be registered soon after disafforestation. The lands had since been disafforested and should therefore be registered in the names of Parayas who were even willing to pay a small rate of *taravila* for the same.

(4) The Parayas in the taluks of Pattanamtitta, Kunnattur and Pattanapuram were living as bondmen on the lands of others. They were liable to be evicted at any moment by their landlords. That was not satisfactory. To avoid such a contingency, the available swampy areas in the Ranni, Vadasserikara, Koduman, Vallikod, Malayalapuzha and Pattanapuram reserves should be registered in the names of Parayas. As a result of several representations on the subject made from the twelfth session of the Assembly onwards, the disafforestation of certain lands from the reserves included in the Pattanapuram, Pattanamtitta and Kunnattur taluks had been sanctioned. Such of the lands as were applied for by the Parayas from the lands so disafforested should be registered in their names.

(5) The Parayas had, in Edavam 1090, applied for the registry of certain *poramboke* lands in the Takazhi and Porakad *pakuthies* of the Ambalapuzha taluk ; but, while the registry proceedings were in progress, it was ordered that all *poramboke* lands in the taluk, including the lands already applied for by them, should be sold in auction. That was hard. The lands in question should be assigned to the Parayas without auction. Even if the lands were to be leased on *kuthakapaattam*, they should be leased to the Parayas who were willing to pay the usual rents.

(6) The lands comprised in Survey Nos. 224/1 and 107/2C of the Vallikunnam *pakuthi* and 119/1 of the Thamarakulam *pakuthi* in the Mavelikara taluk had been applied for by the Parayas from the year 1094 onwards. They should be registered without further delay.

(7) Similarly, the lands comprised in Survey Nos. 308/4 of the Tiruvalla *pakuthi*, 528/2A and B and 452/12 B of the Eravipuram *pakuthi* in the Tiruvalla taluk, applied for by them a long time ago, should also be registered in their names.

(8) The swampy areas selected by the Disafforestation Committee, Todupuzha, should be assigned to the Parayas, at least at the rate of one acre for each family.

(9) In the same way, the lands on the sides of the Devicolam, Kotamangalam, and Neriamangalam roads should be disafforested and assigned in one-acre blocks to families of Parayas.

(10) The grazing block included in Survey No. 644/1 of the Punalur *pakuthi*, Pattanapuram taluk, should be split up into one-acre blocks and assigned to the Parayas of the taluk.

(11) The disposal of the applications for the registry of lands comprised in Survey Nos. 349/1 and 594/1 of the Anchal *pakuthi*, Pattanapuram taluk, should be expedited.

(12) The applications submitted by the Parayas for the registry of lands in all the taluks of the State should be disposed of as early as possible.

The Registrar of Co-operative Societies, who was entrusted with the duty of registering lands in favour of depressed classes, could not devote adequate attention to that work on account of his regular work which was heavy. It would therefore be desirable to appoint a full-time officer for the purpose.

DEWAN'S REPLY [illegible] Kandan Kumaran, you point out what you understand to be available in [illegible] had *bokes* is practically all the taluks of Travancore except possibly the Pampayanted fo[illegible], the Ponmudi region, Mahendragiri region and one or [illegible] Friday was as [illegible] Y[illegible]tant to that all these lands be assigned to your com[illegible]

In order that they might offer [illegible] to think of other depressed communities such be declared a public holiday for the Mahomed[illegible] However, I have under considera[illegible] appearing in courts on that day. The two hours' leave to devote his whole time by the Government was not sufficient.

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to the depressed classes and to settling the landless classes upon land wherever possible. When that question is settled, I daresay it will be possible for the depressed classes to find greater facilities for settling upon Government land.

176. Needs of the Maravas.

MR. N. SUBBIAH TEVAR (*Member, Nominated*) said that it was between the years 904 and 933 that the Maravas were got down from the Pandiyan Kingdom and asked to settle down near the Aramboly and Aryankavu passes in view to protect Travancore from her enemies. They were given many honours and privileges and *inam* lands which some of the families were owning still. But with the advent of the Police and Military forces, the Maravas were forgotten. They were one of the backward classes and there were no educated or influential men among them to work for the amelioration of the community. In the Census Report of 1891, it was stated that the Maravas were a sort of illiterate, poor and troublesome people. But in spite of the lapse of time, no step had been taken for improving their education. There was no graduate among them and there were only two Maravas in the Government service, both of them drawing below Rs. 60 a month. Even the number of School Final Certificate holders was small. Although some of them had applied for appointments in the Government service, they were not provided with any post. In view of the above, the member wanted to extend to the Maravas the concessions that were granted to other backward classes.

In South Travancore, more than 50 per cent. of the Maravas was homeless. The Secretary of the Nanjinad *Maravar Sangham* had applied for the registry of 200 house-sites from Survey No. 1610/562 of the Terur *pakuthi*, but only 35 house-sites comprising an area of 1·70 acres had been registered. He had also applied for the registry of the *poramboke* land comprised in Survey No. 2492 in Nagercoil to build a hostel, but it was not registered. Similarly, when he applied for the registry of certain Survey Numbers from the areas earmarked for the depressed classes in the Anantapuram *pakuthi*, Tovala taluk, he was told that those Survey Numbers were included in forest reserves. The Marava community was very poor and, with very few exceptions, they earned their livelihood by working as *coolies*. In view of those facts, the Maravas should be given all available *puduval* lands.

As a result of several representations, the Marava pupils in English Schools had been given half-fee concessions. But the concession had been withdrawn and the Maravas were left just like other communities to obtain the concession under the new rules. The result was that the strength of the Marava pupils in the Shencotta High School fell from 40 in 1096 to 12 in 1102. The percentage of literacy in English among the Maravas was only 0·25 while that in Vernacular was 15. There were only 19 Marava pupils on the whole in all the English Schools of the State, while the total population of the community was 9,500. The member prayed for the revival of half-fee concessions to Maravas ; or if that was not feasible some other substantial consideration might be shown in the matter.

He referred to the case of a Marava student studying in the Intermediate class of the Nagercoil College who had applied for a scholarship, which was not however, granted.

The Maravas were a set of people suited by hereditary inclination for active life. There were departments that were in need of such active men *viz.*, the Police, the Forest and the Excise Departments. But the Maravas could not get entry into those departments because of certain minimum educational qualifications prescribed. The Maravas being backward in education, the minimum qualification in their case should be reduced. There were two School Final Certificate holders who had been without employment for the last three years. The Government should devote greater attention to see that some preferential treatment is accorded to the Maravas in the matter of entertainment in the public service. It is not enough merely to issue circulars on the subject.

The Maravas were not represented on pon[illegible]s for the concessional registry Council and the Sri Mulam Popular Assemblies for each family. But most of that members of his community disposed of. They should be decided without

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